

Troop 216 Committee Meeting November 9, 2016

Meeting called to order at 7:30 by Annette Schoeberle.

In attendance: Steve Dunning, John Evans, Diane Gill, Gary Gill, Steve Kupsky, Max Maier, Edgar M., Natasha McClintock, Karen O'Koniewski, Dan Ruark, Annette Schoeberle, Bob Schoeberle, Tim Valley, Phillippe Welsh.

Secretary Report: Previous meeting minutes were reviewed. Steve Dunning moved for approval, seconded by Phillippe Welsh, motion passed unanimously.

Activities Chair Report:

Diane Gill and Natasha McClintock reported on the following:

- Scouting for Food starts this Saturday. The meeting point will be the bike trail parking lot at Schwarz Road and IL 143. Pickup will be Saturday 19 November.
- The Troop will go to Blue Springs Cavern in Indiana on Saturday-Sunday 3-4 December and spend the night in the cave. Permission slips are already sent out and are due back by the November 28 Troop meeting. The troop reserved 20 spots and paid the deposit. If more than 20 people want to attend, the caverns will need to be contacted to determine if more spots are available given there is some question if their reservation page is updated frequently.
- The annual winter lock-in will be January 13 at the Esic YMCA.
- The scouts are interested in doing an escape room activity in February. Natasha reported on work she has done looking into options for this. There is one in Glen Carbon. Saturdays are hard to get and manage the time well for such a large group but Sundays are open in February right now. Including a 20% discount, the cost will be \$20 per participant. The Committee discussed this but made no recommendations.
- Edgar M. reported the scouts do not have a firm schedule of activities beyond February, but they had lots of ideas. The Committee suggested to Edgar that he work with the scouts and Mr. Gill to identify and schedule some activities in the spring that would help scouts prepare for a Boundary Waters canoeing trip. The Committee also discussed the fact that we need to take action soon to inform parents and get firm head counts in preparation for booking the trip and obtaining the necessary permits.
- Natasha also looked in the Eagle Crest high ropes course. She reported that Saturday April 29 is available but spring break and bookings prevent an earlier April date. All Saturdays in March are available but in March they usually don't allow participants to use the zip line. It is \$23 per participant.
- There are no regular Troop meetings on November 21, December 26 or January 2, 2017.
- Steve Kupsky reported he had received an email from Philmont, indicating there were some openings for 7-day treks in 2017. The start dates of the treks were August 10, 11, 12, and 13, which the Committee determined probably ruled them out due to the probable start date of school in fall 2017. Registration for 2018 treks is now open until November 16 and general interest will be solicited at the November 14 troop meeting.

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Treasurers Report: Tim Valley and Steve Dunning reviewed the October 2016 treasurers report.

- Deposits were up slightly due to the Rendezvous and Silver Lake campouts. Scout accounts were also up, due to wreath sales. There remain some outstanding 2016 scout dues, some of which are inactive scouts and some not. Steve will work with the past due scouts to collect in advance of the December re-chartering.
- Annette reported she had successfully contacted three of the aged-out scouts she had reached out to about using the remaining balances in their scout accounts. One donated his money to the troop and two had scouting-related receipts they wished to submit for reimbursement; one of these scouts aged out over a year ago, and after some discussion with the Committee, Annette will tell him that we will reimburse his scouting-related expenses as well. She will try to close the books on the remaining aged-out scout balances by 12/31/16. The policy of reimbursing aged-out scouts for scouting-related expenses is well-known and well-publicized, so spending time trying to notify scouts to take advantage of it is time-consuming and not strictly required. After some discussion about timelines and thresholds, Steve Kupsky moved that the Committee cease notifying aged-out scouts about using their remaining scouting accounts balances when more than one year has passed since they turned 18 as of November 9 and the balance is less than \$25.00, at which point any remaining funds go back into the Troop's general fund. Max Maier seconded the motion and it passed.
- Steve Dunning plans to institute a reimbursement request form.
- The Committee discussed formulating a policy that would individuals who pay for a campout but then do not go might be reimbursed for the fees they've paid to go. The sense of the Committee was that if the Troop hasn't incurred non-reimbursable expenses when the cancellation is made, there is no problem reimbursing the fees. In other cases, we would usually expect those fees paid to be forfeit but the Committee wants to reserve the right to make other decisions in special circumstances on a case-by-case basis. Steve Dunning was asked to draft such a policy for inclusion in the Parents Welcome Packet.
- Steve Kupsky asked that we remind scouts to offer individuals approached during a fundraiser with the option of making a monetary donation.

Advancement Chair Report: John Evans gave the advancements report.

- John asked Edgar to review the scouts listed under the Old Rules and let them know they may want to rank up before they are moved to the New Rules as of January 1, since it may be easier or advantageous to rank up under the Old Rules.
- John is still working to help five younger scouts get the credit they deserve for work done at summer camp which wasn't properly documented. Some of the requirements required evidence of progress over 30 days, so he is tackling that problem too. Max suggested we dedicate some of the older scouts' time to helping the younger scouts document and prove their progress on these merit badges. John is still pushing GSLAC for proper documentation.
- John plans to work with scouts who haven't advanced in a while to see what he can do to help get them moving.

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Council/District Representative Report: Steve Kupsky gave the council/district representative's report in Wes Searcy's absence.

- Steve received a copy of our current Youth Protection Training (YPT) status. Annette will notify those past due on training and John will record all statuses in Troopmaster. YPT must be done before adults are re-chartered.
- The district executive is looking for companies in Lewis and Clark Council to sponsor merit badges. This is done in GSLAC and with the merger coming, they want to be sure some sponsorships are done in former Lewis & Clark territory.
- Nominations are being sought for the Acorn (being extraordinarily helpful) and Sparkplug (being a source of energy and enthusiasm) Awards for adult leaders, which will be given at the district awards dinner.

Senior Patrol Leader Report: Edgar M. provided the SPL report.

- The Silver Lake campout went very well and several scouts started their hiking merit badges. He also heard the Giant City campout went well, although he wasn't able to attend.
- They are improving the tent inspection routine so that individuals know exactly why a given tent inspection failed so they can take corrective action.
- All leadership positions are now filled.
- November 28 and December 5 will be Family Life merit badge nights.
- John Evans asked Edgar to keep a roster of scouts who attended the Scouting for Food events.

Fundraising Chair Report: Karen O'Koniewski gave the Fundraising report.

- Popcorn sales will continue through November. Seven scouts are registered to sell, but only four have actually done so far (with sales totaling \$700). It's still not too late to register to sell.
- Karen expressed her gratitude to Tara Kuhne for coordinating wreath sales. Twenty were sold. Kyle Taylor's parents will pick them up and distribute them.
- This Monday, November 14, is the deadline for turning in Cardinals calendar sales.

Quartermaster Report: John Evans reported that Karen will be taking over as quartermaster soon. John described some ongoing problem with the camp stoves not lighting; he thinks they may have clogged venturis, so he is going to disassemble them and try to clean them out before turning the gear over to Karen. He may ask the scouts to help clean the stoves up as well. The need for two trailer ball hitch locks was discussed. Steve Kupsky moved we spend up to \$50 to purchase two locks. Bob Schoeberle seconded the motion and it passed.

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Chartering Report: Annette reported on a meeting she and Gary had with Dr. Brooks and Mark Veith of First Christian Church of Edwardsville.

- Mr. Veith will be our new chartered organization representative. Annette gave them a unit application, charter agreement, and adult leader application (for Mr. Veith).
- There is a church board meeting this Sunday at 5:30 PM; Gary will attend.
- The Church is having an existing pile of gravel spread out behind the Linden Building where we can park the Troop trailers. Gary noted we need to clean out the Knights of Columbus' sheds before we move away; there are still cots in there, and Bob noted we need to leave fourteen behind for the Knights.
- The fellowship hall will be available to use on Monday nights for Troop meetings, so we will begin meeting there starting the second Monday of January. Even though we won't be subject to Liberty School's calendar anymore for using their auditorium, we will continue to not have Troop meetings on parent-teacher days and school holidays.
- We will be able to use their Parlor Room for committee meetings.
- The Committee discussed creating a new Troop 216 Eagle Scout plaque that would list all Troop 216 Eagle Scouts, across both the time when we were chartered with the Knights and now with the Church. The plaque we have been using has the names of Knights who were Eagle Scouts but not through troop 216. Gary noted the Church also has some past Eagle Scouts through its former Troop. Action on the plaque was deferred pending further discussion on how to proceed.
- Bob Schoeberle reported he had introduced a motion which passed earlier that night at the Knights of Columbus meeting which formally transferred ownership of the Troop's assets to the new chartering organization.
- The Committee discussed how to recognize the support the knights have given the Troop through the years. Several ideas were floated but no action was taken.

Communications Report: Steve Dunning reported to the committee on the work of the Communications Subcommittee. The subcommittee is working on identifying and contracting with a new website hosting company but it hasn't finished its work yet. They are researching other Troop websites for good ideas and best practices.

Scoutmaster Report: Gary Gill reported on the following:

- The Highland campout went well. Gary noticed some of the scouts had a hard time with the 5-mile hike and thinks it may have been due to the relatively boring scenery; at Giant City, the hike wasn't much shorter and it was more strenuous, but the Scouts didn't complain and enjoyed the dramatic views and high cliffs. The Highland camping site was very convenient and everyone thought we should camp there again. It would probably be a good place for first-time campers.

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- Giant City went great. The weather was perfect and we had the campsite all to ourselves. Ray W. and Jacob S. were helpful during the rappelling; thanks to Max and Scott Ganschietz for letting the Troop use their gear. Ray W. and Jakob S. were very helpful at the base of the cliff during the event. Trevor W. did a good job running the campout as acting SPL. There was one slight problem in that scout turnout for shopping was very light and so the scouts had to live with the adult menu.
- Gary talked to Edgar about how printed agendas could help meetings run more smoothly. He also suggested Edgar get any adult announcements on the agenda so he can make them himself or call on the adult.
- Gary would like to see more communications-related activities at scout meetings so they can improve their communication skills.
- He asked that all adult leaders engage with the scouts in all positions so they can talk about their responsibilities, what they want to accomplish, and how they can grow in them.

Committee Chair Report: Annette Schoeberle reported the following:

- The re-chartering paperwork is due by the first Tuesday in December.

Charter Organization Representative Report: None.

Old Business:

- Max reported that we will probably have four new den chiefs lined up soon.

New Business:

- Steve Kupsky suggested an email be sent to Order of the Arrow (OA) members to tell them scout account funds can be used to pay OA dues. The Committee discussed the process and mechanism for paying OA on behalf of the scouts and how to coordinate that with scouts who wished to pay OA directly. Steve will draft an email for review by the Treasurers, with the intent to start the payment process in December.

Motion to adjourn by Dan Ruark, seconded by Steve Kupsky, and approved unanimously.